

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MOGADI 01577 181028Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----015611 181034Z /14

R 180950Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5284
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T MOGADISCIO 1577

EXDIS NO FON DISSEM

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, MARR, SO, ET, EG
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN MILITARY AID TO SOMALIA

REF: DJIBOUTI 414

1. EMBOFF MET WITH EGYPTIAN MIL ATTACHE COLONEL HALIM
SEPT 18 TO REVIEW STATUS OF EGYPTIAN MILITARY AID TO SOMALIA.

2. COL HALIM SAID THREE-MAN EGYPTIAN MIL DELEGATION ARRIVED
TODAY FROM CAIRO TO MEET WITH SNA OFFICERS AND GO OVER SOMALI
MILITARY REQUIREMENTS. ACCORDING HALIM, SADAT HAD MADE DECISION
TO SUPPLY SOMALIA WITH LATE HEAVY WEAPONS, INCLUDING TANKS
UNQTE AS WELL AS SPARE PARTS. THREE C-130'S WILL ARRIVE SHORTLY
(FIRST WAS DUE TODAY, SEPT 18, BUT ARRIVAL DELAYED) WITH
EGYPTIAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT. TANKS WILL BE BROUGHT BY SEA.

3. COL HALIM SAID THAT SADAT DECISION TO PROVIDE HEAVY
WEAPONS WAS OPPOSED BY GAMASY BECAUSE OF TIS IMPLICATIONS FOR
GOE MILITARY PREPAREDNESS BUT THAT SADAT PERSUADED
HIM THAT REPLACEMENT COULD BE FOUND FOR GOE.

4. GOE WILL NOT RPT NOT PROVIDE MILITARY PERSONNEL
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FOR SOMALIA FOR QTE POLITICAL REASONS UNQTE. HALIM
SAID THAT NO RPT NO EGYPTIAN PILOTS HAD BEEN PROVIDED
SOMALIA AND NONE WERE EXPECTED. EGYPTIAN AID WILL BE LIMITED
TO HEAVY WEAPONS AND SPARE PARTS.

5. HALIM SAID THAT SADAT HAD MADE DECISION TO HELP SIAD
IN VIEW OF CRITICAL WEAPONS AND AMMO SITUATION FACING

SNA. ACCORDING HALIM, SNA HAS NO RPT NO TANK OR HEAVY WEAPONS RESERVES AND SOMALI DEFENSIVE POSTURE HAD BEEN SERIOUSLY COMPROMISED BY WEAPONS COMMITMENT TO OGADEN FIGHTING. HE SAID SNA HAD LOST SOME FORTY TANKS TO DATE. WHILE SNA PERSONNEL RESERVES ARE ADEQUATE, IF ETHIOPIAN STRUCK ACROSS BORDER SNA WOULD BE VULNERABLE. HE AGREED THAT EPMG MILITARY FORCES IN NO RPT NO POSITION TO LAUNCH OFFENSIVE AGAINST SOMALIA.

6. REGARDING SOVIET MILITARY SUPPLIES FOR SOMALIA, HALIM SAID SOVIET SUPPLIES CONTINUING (FYI SOVIET SHIPS CONTINUE TO CALL AT MOGADISCIO PORT END FYI). SOVIETS ARE NOT RPT NOT SUPPLYING SNA WITH EQUIPMENT IT NEEDS. REPLACEMENT ITEMS ARE USELESS, HALIM SAID.

7. HALIM SAID THAT EGYPTIAN VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK WILL SPEND ONLY THREE HOURS IN MOGADISCIO AND THREE HOURS IN DJIBOUTI. HE WILL SPEND LONGER PERIOD IN KENYA, WHERE HE HOPES TO CALM KENYAN FEARS ABOUT SOMALI THREAT TO KENYA. EGYPTIANS HOPE TO THUS NEUTRALIZE KENYAN ROLE IN SOMALI/ETHIOPIAN CONFLICT. COL HALIM SAID THAT GOE HAD INFORMATION TO EFFECT THAT SOVIET EQUIPMENT WAS BEING TRANSSHIPPED TO ETHIOPIA VIA KENYA IN VIEW OF DANGERS TO SOVIET SHIPPING AT ASSAB. EMBOFF SAID HE DOUBTED SUCH REPORTS AND COL HALIM ADMITTED HIS SOURCES WERE QUESTIONABLE.

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8. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO RPT NO REPORT OF PRESENCE OF EGYPTIAN PILOTS IN SOMAILIA AND WE ARE SUSPICIOUS OF ANY IRAQI REPORT TO THE CONTRARY. WE TEND TO BELIEVE COL HALIM'S REMARKS ON THE SUBJECT, INCLUDING GOE AWARENESS OF POLITICAL PROBLEMS EGYPTIAN PILOT PRESENCE MIGHT CREATE.
LOUGHRAN

SECRET

NNN

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